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SUBJECT: IRAN/IAEA: OPTIONS FOR ADDRESSING IRAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM AT THE UNSC

REF: STATE 219260

11. (SBU) Summary: On October 29, Ambassador delivered reftel points and non-paper to FM Kadirgamar. Poloff had spoken separately with GSL Assistant Director for UN Affairs Ekanayake. Kadirgamar expressed interest in US views, but acknowledged he was not well briefed on the subject. Ekanayake said Sri Lanka realizes some action is needed, but that Iran and Sri Lanka have a close relationship (Iran is a major buyer of Sri Lankan tea). President Kumaratunga will visit Iran in late November, around the same time as the IAEA Board meeting. End Summary.

12. (SBU) Ambassador delivered reftel points and non-paper to Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Kadirgamar during an October 29 meeting. MFA Director General for Economic Affairs Prasad Kariyawasam also attended. Kadirgamar listened with interest to US points and agreed to review the non-paper. Kadirgamar said he needed "to become better briefed" on the issue. In response to Ambassador's explanation of steps that had taken matters to this point, Kadirgamar asked whether North Korea was in a similar situation. Ambassador replied that North Korea had withdrawn from the NPT and therefore did not view itself as under IAEA safeguards. Iran, as an NPT signatory, must honor its NPT and IAEA commitments.

13. (SBU) During the meeting, Kadirgamar requested additional background information on this specific issue, the EU discussions with Iran and nuclear fuel cycle issues in general. Post will contact NP directly for additional information that we can provide.

14. (SBU) In an earlier discussion with poloff, Sumedha Ekanayake, Assistant Director for UN Affairs, acknowledged that his government realizes that "something must be done" about Iran's nuclear activities. This decision is complicated by the "close relations" his government maintains with Iran. Ekanayake said his government has not yet decided what course of action to pursue.

15. (SBU) Comment: We understand from the Foreign Ministry that President Kumaratunga will travel to Iran, a major importer of Sri Lankan tea, in late November -- at about the time of the IAEA Board meeting. Presumably the IAEA Board meeting will figure prominently in Iran's agenda for this trip. Deputy Secretary Armitage will meet President Kumaratunga and Foreign Minister Kadirgamar on November 8. This would be an ideal time to raise the issue if Department believes a highest-level approach is warranted.

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